

**To:** Snyder, Raquel[Snyder.Raquel@epa.gov]  
**From:** Levine, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 7:43:20 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Gold King mine spill

Thanks I will handle.

---

*Carolyn Levine*

*Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations*

*U.S. EPA*

*(202) 564-1859*

*levine.carolyn@epa.gov*

**From:** Snyder, Raquel  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 2:22 PM  
**To:** Levine, Carolyn  
**Subject:** FW: Gold King mine spill

Hello,

Please see email below from Feinstein's staff regarding the spill.

Many thanks,

Raquel Snyder

Congressional Liaison

U.S. EPA/Office of Congressional Affairs

(202)564-9586

**From:** Peterson, James (Feinstein) [[mailto:James\\_Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:James_Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov)]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 2:21 PM

**To:** Snyder, Raquel

**Subject:** Gold King mine spill

Hi Raquel-

My boss has a couple questions about the spill.

1. What is the location of the leading edge of the contamination?
2. How far is that from the Gold King mine, from the CO River and Metropolitan Water District intake pipes?
3. What is the toxicity level at the contamination site and what projections do you have for toxicity downstream? Ie, is it expected that the contaminant level will be at non-detect levels X miles downstream?
4. Do you have a summary of physically what happened at the mine site that triggered the release?
5. Do you have a brief summary of EPA's work on the site in the years preceding this incident?

FYI, Senator Feinstein's interest is on mining reforms and protecting California's water supply, both from this incident as well as making sure remediation of similar mines in the state gets done.

Any help you can provide on these is much appreciated.

---

**James Peterson**

Legislative Assistant

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Tel (202) 224-3841

Fax (202) 228-3954

[James\\_Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:James_Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov)

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>



**From:** Snyder, Raquel [<mailto:Snyder.Raquel@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 4:29 PM

**Subject:** Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines

**Contact:**

[press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov) or 970-812-3351

SUBJECT: Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy today sent the below directive to Regional Administrators regarding ongoing field work at mines:

*While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the*

*Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities, unless there is imminent risk in a specific case. We are in the process of initiating an independent assessment by a sister federal agency or another external entity to examine the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the outcome from that assessment, we will determine what actions may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site and to identify any immediate threats and consider appropriate response actions.*